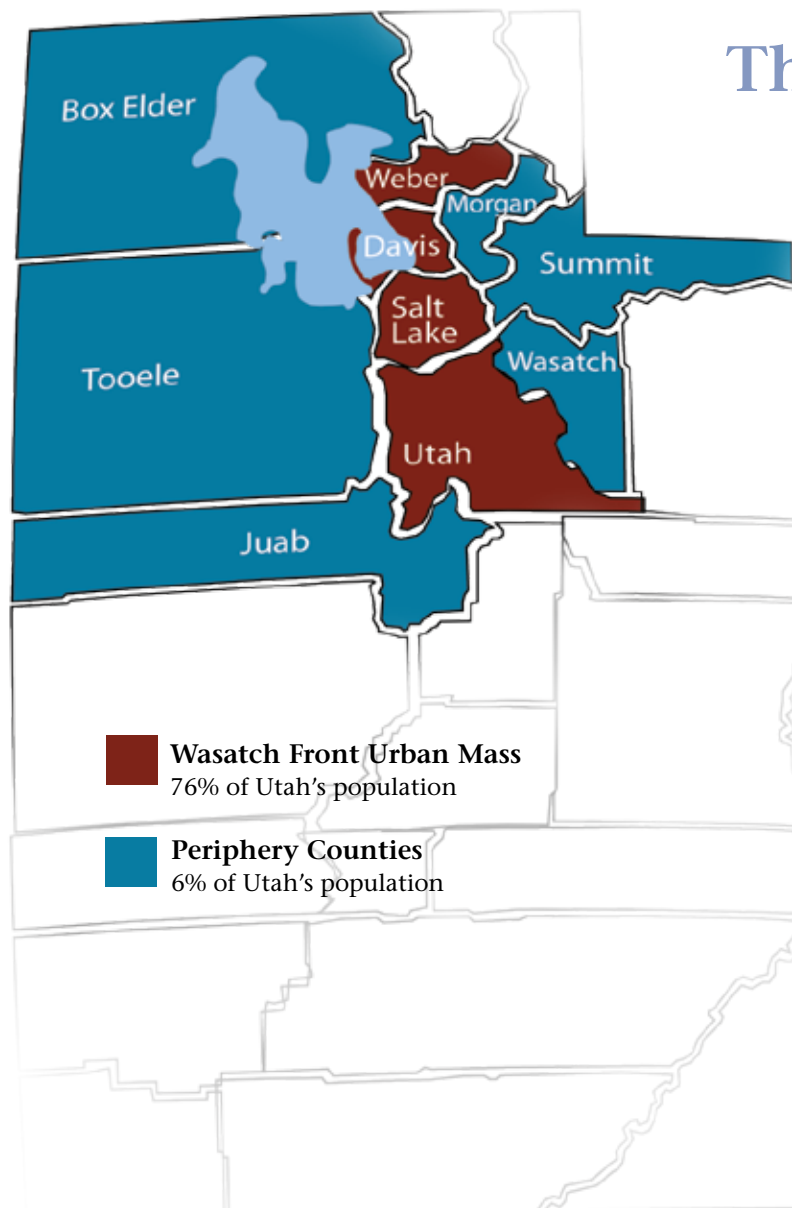


Growing

The Urban Periphery



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Those familiar with Utah know that it is geographically a large state, yet the vast majority of its population is concentrated in a relatively small corridor. The four counties that lie from Provo to Ogden, a span of roughly 80 miles, account for 76 percent of all Utah population (based on Census 2000 data). This would be 1.7 million people out of a state of 2.2 million. That is a lot of people compressed into a small area, and it really stands out in such a geographically large state.

Yet the percentage of that concentration used to be higher. At the time of both the 1980 and 1990 censuses, these four counties comprised 78 percent of Utah's population. Though that urban masses' percentage has decreased by only 2 percentage points, it does signal a shift in how Utah is further being populated.

Utah's urban core has reached enough of a critical mass that it is spilling over into its neighboring counties. These include Juab, Wasatch, Summit, Morgan, Box Elder, and Tooele counties. The southern and northern ends (Juab and Box Elder counties) aren't seeing too much increase yet, and probably won't for another ten years. There is still more build-out that can occur in southern Utah County and northern Weber County before those counties experience this overflow. But Morgan, Summit, Wasatch, and Tooele counties, surrounding the center of this urban mass, are seeing large amounts of urban spillover now. Population has increased in those four counties by 61 percent between the last two censuses, and their share of total Utah population has increased by 1 percentage point (rising to 4.2 percent). That may not seem like much, but in just a ten-year period, that is a sizeable increase.

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The people are flowing out of the urban corridor, but are the jobs? Not to the same degree, and not until just recently. In 1990, those four peripheral counties accounted for 3 percent of all Utah jobs. By 2000, their employment share remained at 3 percent. Their percent of the state population grew, but not the employment percent. But in

2005, those four counties' employment percentage increased to 3.5. The population spilled out first, and the jobs are just now starting to follow. ⓘ

To follow the latest economic events: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/press/tlextra/tlextracurrent.asp>

Did you know...

- Voters in Salt Lake and Utah counties approved a quarter-cent sales tax hike that could fund a doubling of the Salt Lake Valley's commuter rail and light rail system, and fund general road improvements. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,650205317,00.html>
- Change. It has defined downtown Salt Lake City for the past 15 years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, according to the Downtown Alliance. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,650203888,00.html>
- A developer is hoping to capitalize on the transportation stops in South Salt Lake and create a 12-acre community with retail and residential space. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,650205003,00.html>